

country. There will be a proposal that we will have buried in this provision that would exempt the Department of Defense from environmental regulations having to do with water consumption off the immediate adjacency of the properties under control of the Secretary of the Defense, but nonetheless directly affected by it.

I find it sad, because I have long argued on this floor and in communities around the country, that the most effective way to enhance the environment is not passing new rules and regulation, taxes and fees. The most powerful tooling to protect the environment is for the Federal Government to simply lead by example, to model the behavior that we expect from the rest of America.

Here we have a provision that would exempt the largest manager of infrastructure in the world and one, sadly, with a decidedly mixed environmental record, from compliance with its environmental responsibilities. The latest count shows that there are about 150 Department of Defense facilities on the Superfund national priority list and another five proposed for listing. Indeed, I think we can safely assume that the Department of Defense is the largest Superfund polluter in the United States. The last thing we want to do is to grant this important Federal agency with vast environmental impact, sweeping exemption from environmental laws, at least without going through the appropriate legislative process involving the stakeholders having an honest debate with the American public. Yet that is exactly what we are given under this supplemental.

The exemption provision in this bill would not only do irreparable damage to an important eco-system in Arizona, and that is the purpose of this amendment, to deal with the San Pedro River which is slowly being dewatered because of the impacts of the Department of Defense, but this sets a terrible precedent for the effects of the Department of Defense actions on the environment around the country.

Now, I would be the first to admit on occasion there must be accelerated decisions, shortcuts that are necessary for the sake of military necessity. We do not do an environmental impact statement for every bomb we drop, nor should we. However, it is embarrassing that what we are doing today with this provision is to relieve a Department of responsibility for its foreseeable environmental impacts which are under the control of the Department.

The amendment is unwarranted and at the very least premature. Even the Government Accounting Office says the Department of Defense has not done the research and investigation necessary to determine whether such an exemption is justified.

Mr. Speaker, it is yet another example why this House should reject the supplemental appropriation that is coming before us.

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### RAISING THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, tonight the House began the debate on the supplemental appropriations bill, a bill that funds the war on terrorism and makes sure that our troops in the field have the necessary equipment and tools they need to win this war. Every Member of this House supports funding the war on terrorism. That is not what the debate was about tonight nor will it be what the debate is about tomorrow, as we continue to debate this supplemental.

The debate tonight was about a provision of the bill that the Republican leadership put in there that would allow an unlimited increase in the statutory debt ceiling. The statutory debt ceiling is a law that provides the maximum amount that our Federal Government can go into debt. It is one of the few tools that we have to promote fiscal responsibility and require fiscal discipline in this House.

The Democrats tonight stood up to tell the American people that we deserve to have an honest and open debate regarding this very critical issue. If we increase the national debt limit by \$750 billion, as Secretary O'Neill has requested, we will be giving this Congress a blank check for uncontrolled spending for ever-increasing debt and for deficits.

It is wrong for us to ask the young men and women in uniform who are sacrificing tonight to fight this war against terrorism to be the very generation that comes home and pays the bills for this war.

The fundamental question before the House tonight was who is going to pay the bill for this war on terrorism. Are we going to pay it as the generation that is able to do so? Are we going to say to the young men and women in uniform, we will let them fight the war and then when they come home and when they are in their good income-earning years they can pay the debt for the war that they fought?

Democrats believe that is wrong. We believe it is wrong to hide an increase in the debt ceiling in this very important supplemental appropriation bill.

We must not use the Social Security trust fund, the American people's retirement fund, to pay for this war. We must not ask that we borrow money from the public to pay for this war. We believe that it is our responsibility today to pay for this war.

The patriotic thing to do as Americans is to be willing to sacrifice along with the men and women in uniform, and the sacrifice that we must pay is we must be willing to pay the bill.

At your house and mine and your business and mine, we understand what it means to balance the budget. We understand that when changed economic

circumstances lower our income, that we have to make adjustments in our budget. We have to cut our spending, and if we need to borrow money, we establish a plan to pay it back. It should be no different in Washington. In Washington we also should pay the American people's bills.

Every Member of this Congress recognizes that the debt ceiling must be raised. In fact, as we speak tonight, Secretary O'Neill is using unusual emergency measures to keep the Federal Government from defaulting on its obligations, by using the retirement funds of Federal employees to prevent a default in Federal obligations.

Even after using every trick in the bag, the tricks will run out by the end of June and the debt ceiling must be raised, but Democrats believe that when we raise the debt ceiling we need at the same time to establish a plan to put us back into a balanced budget. Democrats have offered before the Committee on Rules amendments that would do that in a bipartisan way and those have been rejected.

In the first 7 months of this fiscal year, the Federal deficit is \$66.5 billion. To give my colleagues a picture of how things have changed in Washington, if we go back just 1 year and look at what the budget looked like in the first 7 months of the last fiscal year, we had a surplus of \$165 billion. After having 4 straight years of surpluses in the Federal budget, we are back into deficit spending, and we need a plan to get us back on the road to fiscal responsibility.

Our failure to balance the budget means that we are going to be using the Social Security trust fund to finance this war. That is wrong, and Democrats want a plan to get us back on the right track.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

### CELEBRATING TWO GREAT EVENTS OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House today to celebrate 2 great events of human achievement that are both adjoined that we recently experienced, and those achievements are surrounding a fellow named Eric Lindberg